

PETRVS RAMVS. ET

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Godly Sermon

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P E T E R S Repentance,

After he had denyed his Lord and Master
Jesus Christ, as it is in his Repentance,
he wept bitterly for his sins.

The second Edition, Corrected and Enlarged, and
set forth for the good of all those that truly
fear God: By a godly Pastor.

Matthew 26. 75.

*And Peter remembred the words of Jesus, which he
said, Before the Cock crow, thou shalt deny me
thrice: So he went out and wept bitterly.*

Matthew 5. 4.

Blessed are ye that mourn, for ye shall rejoyce.

London, Printed for Eliz. Andrews, at the White
Lion near Pye Corner, 1663.

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THE FIRST PART

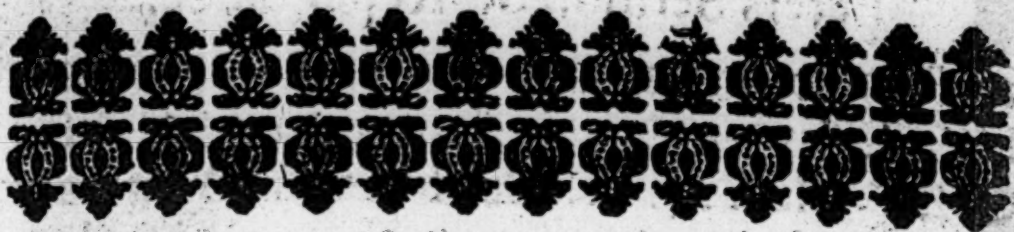
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Mark 14. 68, 70.

And he denyed, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest; and he went out into the porch, and the cock crew. And he denied it again. And a little after they that stood by, said again to Peter, surely thou art one of them, for thou art a Galilean, and thy speech agreeth thereto.

Peter is called Simon, an obedient hearer; he is also called Peter, confident, and strong in faith, like a Rock unmoveable: Thou art Peter, and upon this Rock will I build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it, Matth. 16. 18. He was penitent, the words now read unto you do prove the sins; for after he had sinned he went out: That every Christian were qualified like Peter, those that crave repentance and faith, and obedience, are better to come to God then the Presents given by the three Wise men unto Christ, Match 2. 1. Precious odour was not so much accepted as Peters Repentance. Gold, Frankincence, and Myrrhe are not so precious

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as Peters repentance to Godward ; for he wept bitterly for denying his Lord and master Jesus Christ : Mark 14. 71. But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak. So soon as he had learned to lye, he had learned to swear ; they are inseparable companions, and as I may say, sworn brethren, that alwayes meet together in a sinful society : We never read of Peters swearing any where else, yet here upon a sudden, oaths and curses shewed themselves. No sooner Ham spied Noahs nakedness, Gen. 9. 22. Cursed be Canaan a servant of servants shall he be.

So he went out : This Text affords us three special Notes, being very remarkable in Peters Repentance. 1. Remembrance of sin. 2. Remorse of sin. 3. Sorrow for sin : all of which ought to accompany a godly and sincere Convert in turning from his evil wayes.

Thus having found out the mine, let us now dig for the treasure ; So he went out : He was careless till the Cock warned him, thereby learning, that the first step to repentance is the remembrance of sin ; and therefore David saith, Psal. 51. 3. My sins are before me. Moses charged the people to remember their sins, and there he put them in remembrance, how oft they provoked the Lord, by that means calling them to repentance, Deut. 9. 7. He went out : another

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Step of Peters Repentance, he first weighed his sin: Mark Noah; and in the meditation thereof, now onely naked and bare; but he was awakened from his former drowsines and slumber of sin. He went out; wherein observe the effectual operations of Gods Spirit in the Children of God after we have sinned, Spiritually the grace of God calleth us home again, and suffereth us not to rest; like the Dove that was sent out from Noah found no rest, Gen. 8. 9. nor can Peter now finde any rest, till he had found Christ by Repentance, whom he had lost by Denial. Peters sin was great, it was no small bait that Sathan laid in his way, for great is the danger; for what greater advantage could Sathan else have wished then this? had not the assisting hand of Gods mercies staied him up after his fall for his own glory, and to the unspeakable comfort of the Godly, who though they fall, can never fall away: for the Promise of God standeth sure, and hath this seal, God knoweth who are his. Our Saviour Christ saith, Of those whom thou hast given me I have not lost one of them, save the son of perdition, John 17. 12. He went out as Isaac went out into the field to pray, Gen. 24. 63. so Peter went out to meditate and consider what he had done, Peter went out and wept bitterly, Luke 22. 62. the faithful soul when it is desirous

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to enter into any holy consultation, or conference, covets to be alone; like Christ in the desert, Matth. 4. 1. Jacob being alone wrestled with the Angel, and prevailed for a Blessing, Gen. 32. 24. Jonah went out of the city of Nineve to mourn over it, as it is Jonah 4. 5. Now Jonah preached in Nineve, that within forty dayes it should be destroyed, and they repented. Moses was bid to pull off his shoes when he passed near the flaming Bush, Exodus 3. 5. So we must put off our shoes of carnality, and go out from our selves, as the Adder casteth her slough, if we will tread upon holy ground, and press to come where God is. Peter so long as he staid in the High Priests Hall among the enemies of Christ, he became as one of them, and had quite forgotten that Christ was his master; and so denyed him whom a little before he promised to dye for.

O what have I done miserable man that I am! how dangerously have I fallen in denying him the Lord of life, and my Lord. I a rebellious sinner to deny him that framed me, and by his truth redeemed me: and was I so wicked, if all the world were offenders, yet I would not be offended; yea, I was ready to lay down my life for Christ my Lord; and yet before the Cock crew twice, I had denied him three times, Mat. 26. 33. O perjured wretch that I am!

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am I how heavy have I transgressed my faith, by denying him that dyed for me : I that thought my faith strong enough to encounter with the whole world, most shamefully suffered a woman (and the weaker vessel) to discountenance me. Is not this to be offended. : And is this to give my life for my master. : Nay, is not this to forsake him quite, and to join with the wicked. : for I denied him whom my soul loved best ; for which my name deserves to go with a brand upon, as that of Jeroboam goes with his train. Peter confesseth his train of sins ; and Jeroboam by name cannot onely be mentioned, but his sins must be likewise here mentioned. Jeroboam goes with his train, Jeroboam that made Israel to sin : And Peter desirous to have his train too, Peter that denied his master ; from henceforth Peter repented him of his hainous sins he committed, in denying his Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

Let us all repent with Peter, that God may give us the earnest of his grace in our hearts for ever : St. Paul saith, Heb. 6. 6. He that sinneth crucifieth the Son of God again ; so did Peter by denying his Lord and Master. Peters faith was wabering faith, had not God looked again upon him with the eyes of mercy and tender compassion, he assured that Peter had fallen from Light into utter Darknes and Damna-

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Damnation, had not he truly repented with an
unfeigned repentance. Psal. 71. 9. Cast me not
away in the time of age, forsake me not when my
strength faileth me: Here we may see how the
Prophet cryes to God for mercy, as Peter did,
cry and weep with a most exceeding weeping
for denying his Lord and Master, Gen. 27. 34.
And when Esau heard the words of his Father, he
cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and
said unto his Father, Bless me, even me also, O my
Father: These are the words of Esau the eldest
son of Isaac, but the youngest in faith to God-
ward. Blessed be thou which art the trium-
phant Conquerour of Hell, Hosea 13. 14. the
banquisher of the Devil, Matth. 4. 10. the con-
querour and destroyer of death, 1 Cor. 15. 55.
and Redeemer of them that were in darkness,
and in the shadow of death, Luke 1. 79. All ye
that be thirsty come unto the water, and you
that have neither Gold nor Silver, come and
receiue all these precious treasures free with-
out paying any thing, Isa. 55. 1. This is the
water of life which springs out of the euerla-
sting Rock, the Rock of defence to all that be-
lieues in Christ our Lord, who is the enduring
Rock of our Salvation in this world, and in
the world to come. Amen.

But now Peter wept for his sins, and confes-
sed his faults before God by repenting of his
sinful

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sinful actions which he had committed against God; he was taken for one of evil behaviour, and as one that kept evil company; for they said, he receiveth sinners, and eateth with them, Matth. 11. 19. This of the lowliness and meekness of our Lord and blessed Redeemer, who hath redeemed us from all evil, and looked upon Peter in mercy and love; for if Christ had not called Peter by repentance, Peter had been a damned creature for falling into so great a sin; for he did utterly deny Christ by lying and swearing, which are great sins, and without Repentance cannot be forgiven. Christ hath commanded us to repent, Mat. 3. 2. And saying, Repent ye, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. And again ver. 17. At that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.

My Brethren, here you may see how these places of Scriptures agree in one point, so must our mindes be agreeable to the will of God; that we may walk in the light till we have light, and to walk in the Laws and Commandments of the most high God: Mat. 5. 16. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorifie your Father which is in heaven

And let us make a good end by Repentance; I heard a voice from Heaven, saying, Blessed are they

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they that dye in the Lord, henceforth, even so saith the Spirit, that they rest from their labour and sorrow, and their works shall follow them, Rev. 14. 13. Here we may see that God blesseth those that fears him even unto death, that he might give them eternal life; When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with him in glory; this is the hope of the Saints, and all the Elect People of God; Matth. 10. 22. He that endureth to the end shall be saved. Be thou faithfull unto death, and I will give thee a Crown of life, Rev. 2. 10.

Peter was faithful unto death, by repenting him of his sins; And Peter went out and wept bitterly: So Peter repented with a faithful repentance; Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive of the Holy Ghost. This Peter it was that denied Christ, but now doth plainly declare him to all people; here is the unworthiness of those that look back by sin: And on the other side, No man that putteth his hand to the plough, and looketh back, is fit for the Kingdom of God, Luke 9. 62. But Peter looked back by denying his Lord and Master Jesus Christ. It is a most certain truth, that God hath given unto us eternal life; so this is as certain, that this life is in his Son. And in the next verse,

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He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son hath not life, 1 John 5. 11, 12.

Now we may see how blessed a thing it is to have the Son of God in our hearts by fasting, and prayers, and by faith and truth; he that hath faith hath life eternal for evermore in the Kingdom of Heaven. The Prophet Davids Prayer, or Arithmetick, is thus termed: Teach us, O Lord, to number our dayes, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom, Psal. 90. 12.

Peter wept, because for the weight of grief and sorrow, in denying his Lord and Master Jesus Christ, which made him (for doing that deed) say, Troubles have compassed me round about; my heart is vexed and troubled, my sins are alwayes before mine eyes, which do grievously torment my conscience, and labour to beat me down to Hell; there is no peace for the terrour of the Lord; I refuse to be comforted, I am troubled, and my spirit doth afflict me; I see no place whereunto I may flye and seek a remedy for my sins.

But Peter denied his Master for fear. Peter then denied again, and immediately the Cock crew. Then said the Damsel that kept the door unto Peter art not thou also one of this mans Disciples? He saith, I am not; but denied, saying, I know not the man, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch, and the
Cock

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Cock crew, but he began to curse and to swear saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak. When Peter had gotten some feeling in his Conscience, he went out and wept bitterly. 1 Cor. 15. 34. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God, speak this to your shame. Ezek 16. 63. That thou mayest remember and be ashamed, and never open thy mouth more.

Thus Peter is rejected for his swearing and lying, as it is in Rev. 21. 27. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lye. When Satan had tempted Peter to swear, he tempted him to lye; if Peter had not speedily repented, he had been a lost man: but we read that Christ had mercy upon him, and called him from the error of his wayes, and from that sinful deed.

Repentance is a turning to men, we must not be ashamed to acknowledge our faults one to another, James 5. 16. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another; and in so doing men may know that ye are my Disciples: So that we ought to pray for one another, and on the contrary, we had rather curse one another, put woe unto them that do so, for Hell fire is prepared for the tormenting of their souls, being in that gulf of woe everlastingly

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tormented, world without end ; such torments that man cannot expzeſs : for if men would truly conſider the pains of hell, they would undergo any thing in this world to gain the joyes of Heaven.

My Brethren, let us now repent of our former ſins and wickedneſs, that we may be found worthy to enjoy the Kingdom of Heaven by a true repentance, as Peter did repent him of his ſins from the bottom of his heart with an unfeigned Repentance : for you muſt know, true Repentance comes from above ; Every good and perfect gift (ſaith Saint James) comes from above, James 1. 17. For all perfect gifts comes from the Lord God of Hoſts. Chriſt is our Salvation and Hope for evermore, to our ſouls and bodies.

But when Peter had learnt to ſwear, and to lye, and curſe bitterly for to ſave his earthly life, not thinking of the life to come ; Peter was afraid of the power of the High Prieſt, and did not think of the power of Chriſt, whole power is greater then the high Prieſts : for he ſhall come in the glory of his Father, with all his holy Angels, with great power and glory. Peter not thinking of this power, for if he had ſeriously conſidered the power of Chriſt, he would not have denied him by ſwearing, and curſing, and lying.

Swear-

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Swearer ! Alas, though I did swear, yet I thought no harm : O fool, what Prince hearing himself abused to his face by the reproachfull calumnies of his bale Subject, would admit of such an excuse, that whatsoever he spake with his mouth, yet he thought no ill in his heart ; and shall God take this for a good answer, having told us beforehand, Deut. 28. 58, 59. If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this Law, that are written in this Book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful Name, The Lord thy God : Then the Lord will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sickness.

Besides, how frequently dost thou pollute and profane Gods name, and our Saviours ! The Jews grievously sinned in crucifying the Lord of life but once, and that ignorantly ; so Peter ignorantly denied Christ, but wisely repented him of that sin : but they are innumerable that thou dost commit every day in the year, every hour in the day, although thy conscience checks thee for it ; yet though the conscience be guilty, Repentance maketh peace between God and your Conscience for Christs sake. Amen.

And the holy Spirit of Grace hath rebuked thee for it a thousand and a thousand times ;
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how dost thou expect to have Christ thy Redeemer and Advocate, when thy Conscience tells thee, that thou hast seldom remembered him but in thy Oaths to blaspheme him; and oftner named him in thy Oaths and Curses, then in thy Prayers: surely if I did swear faith and troth, this swearing made many sinful souls fall into hell headlong; and if Peter had not speedily repented, he had fallen into Hell torments, where there is nothing but howling, gnashing of teeth, misery, and lamenting for ever.

It is said in Levit. 19. 17. Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart, thou shalt in any wise rebuke him, and not suffer sin upon him: So Peter was rebuked of his Conscience, it tells him that he had wickedly sinned by denying his Lord and Master Jesus Christ: That is your gross ignorance of the Scriptures, for the Scriptures teacheth us to fear God; for God expressly forbids swearing, and that upon pain of damnation: James 5. 12. My brethren swear not, neither by Heaven, nor by Earth, nor by any other Oath; but let your yea be yea, and your nay nay, lest you fall into condemnation. First, our Saviour Christ in his own person forbids it, Matth. 5. 34, 35, 36, 37. I say unto you, swear not at all, neither by heaven, for it is Gods throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool, nor by Jeru-
salem,

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salem, for it is the city of the great King : neither shalt thou swear by thine head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black ; but let your Communication be yea, yea, nay, nay : for whatsoever is more then these cometh of evil. And then the Apostle saith, Above all things my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven nor by earth, nor by any other oath; but let your yea be yea, and nay nay, lest ye fall into condemnation, Jam. 5. 12. Where mark the Emphasis in the first words, Above all things swear not ; and the greater danger of it in the last words, lest ye fall into condemnation : for woe and sorrow will be in the end.

If the matter be light and vain we must not swear at all ; if weighty, then we may lawfully swear ; as before a Magistrate being called to it, when we must onely use the glorious name of our God in an holy and religious manner, as you may see in Deut. 6. 13. Isa. 45. 23. & Isa. 65. 16. Joshua 23. 7. Exodus 23. 13. Jer. 5. 7. And the Reasons are weighty if we look into them ; for in swearing by any creature whatsoever, we do invoke that Creature, and ascribe to it Divine Worship : yea, whatsoever we swear by, that we invoke both our Witness, Surety, and Judge, Heb. 10. and by consequence deifie it, by ascribing and communicating unto it Gods incommunicable Attributes.

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butes, and his omnipresence, and omniscieney,
of being every where present, and knowing
the secret thoughts and intentions of the heart;
and likewise an omnipotency, and as being Al-
mighty in patronizing, protecting, defending,
and rewarding us for speaking the truth, or
punishing us, if we speak falsely: all which are
so peculiar to God, as that they can no way be
communicated or ascribed to another; so that
in swearing by any of these things, thou com-
mittest Idolatry in an high degree, and thou
spoilst and robbest God of his Glory, the most
impious kinde of theft; and in a manner de-
thronest him, and makest an Idol in his room.
And as to swear by the Creature makes the sin
more hainous; so the more mean and vile the
thing is which you swear by, as by my sey, by
Cock, and by Hares-foot, and by this Cheese,
and such like childish oaths, which are so much
in use with the ignorant and superstitious
people, the greater is your sin in swearing such
an oath, because you ascribe that unto these the
basest of Creatures, which is onely proper to
God, namely to know your heart, and to be a
discerner of secret things; why else should you
call that Creature as a witness unto your con-
science, that you speak the truth, and lye not,
which onely belongeth to God; and therefore
the Lord calls it a forsaking of him, as you may

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See what he saith, Jer. 5. 7. How shall I spare thee for this? Thy children hath forsaken me, and sworn by them that are no gods. And to make it a small matter to forsake God, and to make a god of the Creature, will you believe the Prophet Amos? if you will, he saith, speaking of them that swore by the sin of Samaria, that they should fall, and never rise again, Amos 8. 14. A terrible place to vain swearers. But Peter fell and rose again by faith.

Neither are we to joyne any other with God in our Oathes, for in so doing, we make base Idols and filthy Creatures; for Peter wept sorrowfully for his sin and offence which he had committed against Christ his Lord and Master; and because he repented, God granted him mercy and forgiveness for all his offences, which he had committed against him by denying him with an oath, and cursing, and lying. So that Peters Conscience told him, that he was a great sinner in so doing, but he repented with a tender Conscience, and he wept bitterly. Repentance goeth before salvation, and salvation worketh the soules everlasting joyes in the Kingdom of heaven for evermore.

And a maid saw him again, and began to say unto them that stood by, this is one of them; and he denied it again. And a little after they that stood by, said again to Peter, surely thou art one of them,

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for thou art a Galilean, and thy speech agreeth thereto ; but he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak ; and the second time the Cock crew, and Peter calls to minde the words that Jesus said unto him, before the Cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice : And he went out and wept bitterly. Peters heart misgave him, he sinned in so doing, and he wept for it bitterly ; we have a command from God to shun all devices of evil works : Saint Paul saith, Rom. 6. 23. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Neither must we swear at all in our ordinary communication, if we will obey Gods word, as you may see Mat. 5. 34, 35, 36, 37. James 5. 12. And as it is in Exod. 23. 2. Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil. And St. Pauls everlasting Rule is, Rom. 12. 2. Fashion not your selves according to this world, for this world passeth away, and the glory thereof. For as St. John saith, Whosoever denieth the Son, the same denieth the Father ; but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father : But Peter denied God the Son, then he must needs deny God the Father, and God the Holy Ghost ; for as Christ saith, He that sinneth against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him ; but he that sinneth against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him ; neither shall there be any remission of
sins

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sins for that poor soul. 'Tis a fearful thing to fall
into the hands of the living God, Heb. 10. 31.
Stand in awe therefore and sin not, Psalm 4. 4.
2 Tim. 2. 22. Let him that thinketh he standeth
take heed lest he fall. And therefore flee from
youthful lusts, for it is a fearful thing to fall
into the hands of the living God. For the com-
ing of our Lord Jesus Christ draweth nigh.
When he shall come with his mighty Angels in
Glory, Honour, and Power, and Majesty ever-
lastingly to all. Consider what hath been de-
liberated, and the Lord give you understanding
hearts in all things. Amen.

FINIS.

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